

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name John Sargent House

other names/site number 177-5400-0568

2. Location

street & number 225 SW Clay ☐ not for publication

city or town Topeka ☐ vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Shawnee code 177 zip code 66606

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ramon Ponce, SHPO May 5, 1995

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National
Register.

- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

John Sargent House
Name of Property

Shawnee County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1882- 1916

Significant Dates

c. 1882-1885, 1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Sargent, John

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sargent, John

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Kansas State Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The John Sargent House (c. 1882-1885) is located at 225 S. W. Clay in Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas (pop. 115, 266). The two-story, ell-shaped, limestone, Late Gothic Revival house stands on a limestone foundation and is surmounted by a cross-gabled, asphalt shingled roof. A two-story, gable roof, limestone addition to the west was added c. 1910. The building has a southeast facade orientation.

The Gothic Revival style is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, usually with cross gables, wall surfaces that extend into the gable without break, and windows that extend into the gables. The gables are most commonly decorated with brackets. "Doors commonly show pointed arches or other Gothic motifs as well as decorative crowns similar to those found on windows. Elaborate paneled doors are common." (McAlester, p.198)

The exterior of the house is constructed of native limestone quarried at Cottonwood Falls. This same stone was used on the west wing of the State Capital, and a local legend states that the stone was "appropriated" from the Capital grounds. The wall construction is solid cut slit stone. Decorative carvings of floral and vine motifs occur on the bay window and the quoins are bush hammered. Limestone lintels and thresholds surmount and underscore each door and window respectively. The number 61 is carved above the entrance to the house.

The original shape of the house is ell-shaped with an angled entry. A limestone, gable roof addition was added to the west c. 1910. The northwest corner of the addition has a trimmed concave corner. Legend relates that Sargent trimmed the corner on the addition to allow his horses access to the non-extant barn without scraping against the wall. A wooden, shed roof addition pierced by a door and a sixteen light window projects from the south side of the limestone addition. A wooden fascia board defines the roof line. Both front gables have four brackets supporting the roof eave. A chimney rises from each side of the cross-gabled roof.

The angled entry on the house aligns with the Capital dome which is visible from the upper windows. A limestone porch dominates facade of the building where the cross-gables meet. Two square, limestone piers support a gently sloping gable roof. A tongue and groove ceiling surmounts the porch. A solid limestone railing defines the porch area. Limestone blocks support the porch. The porch is accessed from the southeast by one limestone step. A c. 1889 photograph indicates that this porch replaces a wooden porch composed of four posts supporting a gently sloping roof. Decorated brackets upheld the frieze. The porch was accessed from the southeast by one wooden step.

Fenestration is comprised primarily of 1/1 double hung sash windows in singular groupings. A stained glass window is located on second story of the south elevation. A one-story bay window fenestrates the east facade. The lintels over the bay windows are decorated with a floret at each corner and floral motif lines the bottom edge. A vine motif is located at the level of the window meeting rail. The south and east gables are defined with small pointed arched windows.

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The baseboards, which carry throughout the second floor, have a rounded top with a bead-and-cove band at the top. The hallway doors are surmounted by transoms and have their original locksets and knobs. The rooms off the corridors all have the same molding and trim for the doors and windows. Each room has a picture molding located at the level of the window head casing.

A straight staircase leads to the attic. The staircase is located behind a door in the second floor hallway. The overall shape of the attic space is ell-shape and the ceiling follows the contour of the gable roof. Each gable is pierced by a small pointed arch window. A stone mason's signature is located over the east pointed arch. The inscription appears to say "John Adams May 16 1882"

The John Sargent House reflects all the design characteristics that are commonly found in the Gothic Revival style house. The house maintains a high degree of architectural integrity. Sargent resided in the house until death on March 16, 1916.

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John Sargent was born on August 28, 1849 in Barnstaple, Devonshire County, England. Sargent received his schooling and learned the trades of stone cutting and masonry in England before coming to the United States in 1870. A month before coming to the United States, Sargent, at the age of twenty-two, married Mary Lane Griggs on April 2, 1870. They had two sons, John Richard and William.

John and Mary Sargent first located in Cincinnati, Ohio. Sargent's first contract was for the erection, in 1870, of the Episcopal church edifice at Cumminsville, a suburb of Cincinnati. In 1873 he entered the United States Treasury service in the supervising architect's department and assisted in the erection of the custom houses and postoffices at St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Little Rock, Arkansas. He continued working for the United States Treasury service for seven years.

From that work he moved to Topeka, Kansas in 1879, where he took charge of the construction of the west wing of the State Capital building. Upon the Statehouses's completion, Sargent entered into private business and partnership with O.P. Smith of Lawrence. Their first contract was for the stone work and inside finishings of the Topeka government building. They subsequently completed contracts for the inside finishings for the old postoffice building at Kansas City, Missouri; the government Indian school building at Lawrence; the Emporia College building at Emporia; the Methodist church edifice at the corner of Harrison and Sixth avenue, Topeka and many other contracts.

The partnership dissolved in 1883 and Sargent took as an associate of business the Scotsman James Cuthbert. During their connection in the business they erected the courthouse in Lawrence, the courthouse at Beloit, and the Spooner Library on the campus of the University of

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